

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1437

To establish a Southern Border Security Task Force to coordinate the efforts of Federal, State, and local border and law enforcement officials and task forces to protect United States border cities and communities from violence associated with drug trafficking, gunrunning, illegal alien smuggling, violence, and kidnapping along and across the international border between the United States and Mexico.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 11, 2009

Mr. CUELLAR introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To establish a Southern Border Security Task Force to coordinate the efforts of Federal, State, and local border and law enforcement officials and task forces to protect United States border cities and communities from violence associated with drug trafficking, gunrunning, illegal alien smuggling, violence, and kidnapping along and across the international border between the United States and Mexico.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Southern Border Secu-  
3 rity Task Force Act of 2009”.

4 **SEC. 2. SOUTHERN BORDER SECURITY TASK FORCE.**

5       (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after  
6 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of  
7 Homeland Security shall establish a Southern Border Se-  
8 curity Task Force (in this Act referred to as the “Task  
9 Force”) to coordinate the efforts of Federal, State, and  
10 local border and law enforcement officials and task forces  
11 to protect United States border cities and communities  
12 from violence associated with drug trafficking,  
13 gunrunning, illegal alien smuggling, violence, and kidnap-  
14 ping along and across the international border between the  
15 United States and Mexico.

16       (b) COMPOSITION AND DEPLOYMENT.—

17           (1) COMPOSITION.—The Task Force shall be  
18 comprised of personnel from—

19                   (A) United States Customs and Border  
20 Protection;

21                   (B) United States Immigration and Cus-  
22 toms Enforcement;

23                   (C) the Coast Guard;

24                   (D) other Federal agencies, as appropriate;

25                   (E) southern border State law enforcement  
26 agencies; and

1 (F) local law enforcement agencies from  
2 affected southern border cities and commu-  
3 nities.

4 (2) DEPLOYMENT.—The Secretary of Home-  
5 land Security shall deploy the Task Force along the  
6 international border between the United States and  
7 Mexico in cities and communities most affected by  
8 violence, as determined by the Secretary.

9 (c) DIRECTOR.—The Secretary of Homeland Security  
10 shall appoint as a Director of the Task Force an individual  
11 who is experienced and knowledgeable in law enforcement  
12 generally and border security issues specifically.

13 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date  
14 of the establishment of the Task Force under subsection  
15 (a) and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Homeland  
16 Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Se-  
17 curity of the House of Representatives and the Committee  
18 on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the  
19 Senate a report on the effectiveness of the Task Force  
20 in reducing the drug trafficking, gunrunning, illegal alien  
21 smuggling, violence, and kidnapping along and across the  
22 international border between the United States and Mex-  
23 ico as measured by crime statistics, including violent  
24 deaths, incidents of violence, and drug related arrests.

1       (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
2 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Home-  
3 land Security \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2010  
4 through 2014—

5           (1) to establish and operate the Task Force, in-  
6 cluding to provide for operational, administrative,  
7 and technological costs to Federal, State, and local  
8 law enforcement agencies participating in the Task  
9 Force; and

10          (2) to investigate, apprehend, and prosecute in-  
11 dividuals engaged in drug trafficking, gunrunning,  
12 illegal alien smuggling, violence, and kidnapping  
13 along and across the international border between  
14 the United States and Mexico.

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